

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 15 – January 17, 2012

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16 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, January 17 there will be exactly 16 weeks until the May Primary!

IEEE Standard for electronic distribution of blank ballots published

On Thursday, January 12, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standards Associations published IEEE Std 1622A-2011, the IEEE Standard for Electronic Distribution of Blank Ballots for Voting Systems. According to an email sent from Arthur Keller, the Chair of IEEE P1622 Working Group, "This standard specifies electronic data interchange formats for blank ballot distribution, primarily to assist in satisfying the needs of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Subsequent standards may address other requirements for electronic data interchange formats used by components of voting systems for exchange of electronic data. This scope does not include return of cast ballots by electronic means." This standard is available at no charge from <http://standards.ieee.org/getieee/1622/download/1622-2011.pdf>.

New Election Day Forms Emailed

On Monday, January 16th, the Secretary of State's Office emailed new versions of several Election Day forms that are mostly used in precinct kits. These are now the official forms prescribed by the Secretary of State for use in elections in West Virginia. These forms have been thoroughly reviewed for compliance with state and federal laws. For easy reference, the new form numbers correspond to the section of state law that makes them a requirement.

The forms have been provided directly to the counties to allow the counties to make the choice to print the forms in-house or provide the forms to a vendor of their choice.

The Secretary appreciates the assistance from several County Clerks who helped to review and revise the forms. If you did not receive the email, please contact the Elections Division at (304)558-6000.

Candidate Filing Continues

Candidates seeking statewide office continue to file their paperwork with the Secretary of State's Office. The filing period runs until midnight on Saturday, January 28. You can watch the candidate filing live on the Secretary of State's website at www.wvsos.com, and you can also see an updated list of who has filed by clicking on the link at the top of the page. The webcast will be on from 8:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the evening every day of the candidate filing period.

More Important Dates To Remember

There are a couple deadlines coming up that you need to remember!

- **January 15-January 30** is the time period county clerks, as the chairman of the board of ballot commissioners, may appoint two ballot commissioners (one each from two recognized political parties) for a two-year term.
- **February 8, 2012:** Deadline for ordering precinct change.
- **February 8, 2012:** Adopt policy extending medical emergency absentee voting.
- **February 8, 2012:** Last day for petition for suspension of election official.
- **February 9, 2012:** Notice of emergency precinct change.
- **February 14, 2012:** Candidate withdraw deadline.

Campaign Finance Training

The Secretary of State's Office will be conducting Campaign Finance Training throughout the state in February. The training sessions will be in Martinsburg on February 15, Fairmont on February 22, Wheeling on February 23, Logan on February 27, and Charleston on February 28. The training is primarily intended for candidates and treasurers, but other interested individuals are welcome to attend. The training sessions are free, but space is limited and registration is required. The training will include campaign finance law, filing deadlines, how to use the online campaign finance reporting system, and reviews of the forms and documentation. Attached to this email is a flyer for the event. If you have questions, please contact Missi Kinder at mkinder@wvsos.com or Greg Watson at gwatson@wvsos.com. You may also call the Secretary of State's Office at (304) 558-6000.

Have an idea?

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think

there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at elections@wvsos.com or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.